Message Text

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PAGE 01 LILONG 01500 130857Z ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 ACDA-07 /089 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1254
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CONFIDENTIAL LILONGWE 1500

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, UR, SO, ET

SUBJ: DRAWING AFRICAN ATTENTION TO SOVIET ACTIVITY IN THE HORN

REF: STATE 214253

1. WE BELIEVE THAT PRESS PUBLICITY CONCERNING SITUATION I
THE HORN IS MORE THAN ADEQUATE HERE TO PUBLICIZE SOVIET FUELING
OF THE CONFLICT. IN THIS LANDLOCKED PRO-WESTERN COUNTRY WHICH
MARCHES TO ITS OWN BEAT, THERE IS LITTLE INTEREST IN OR LOVE
FOR THE SOMALIS OR EITHIOPIANS AND EVEN THOUGH STRONGLY ANTICOMMUNIST MALAWI WOULD NOT BE DISPOSED TO STICK ITS NECK OUT
ON AN ISSUE SEEN AS OF NO IMPORTANCE TO ITS OWN WELFARE.
2. DURING CONVERSATION PRIMARILY ON OTHER MATTERS, EMBOFF
DISCUSSED THE HORN WITH VINCENT PHIRI, MINEXTAFF POL DEPT CHIEF.
PHIRI WAS VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT SOVIET ROLE IN THE HORN
AND, HAVING JUST RETURNED FROM SECOND RECENT TRIP TO MAPUTO,
ADDED THAT EVEN THE MORE RADICAL STATES FIND SOVIET POLICY
LACKING IN CREDIBILITY. HOWEVER, HE ADDED, NO ONE CARES
MUCH FOR GETTING INVOLVED IN THAT PART OF AFRICA.STEVENSON

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